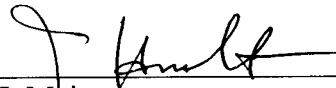


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicants hereby elect Species II corresponding to Figure 2 and further note that the claims readable on the elected species include claims 8-14. This response is made with traverse insofar as the Office Action does not clearly support the conclusion that the species identified lack unity of invention. Furthermore, Applicants note that the invented concept of the present application resides in the particular coupling mode between the membrane 11 and the protective layer 14, 114 independently of the midsole 10 and preassembled insert 110 and also independently of elements 17 and 117. In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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